



ITINERARY & INFO

Pantanal Experience

Welcome to the world's largest freshwater wetland, a vast wilderness ten times the size of the Everglades, all draining into a single artery — the Paraguay River. Traveling along the legendary Transpantaneira Road, we journey deep into this wildlife paradise in search of unforgettable encounters.

Here, life flourishes in a mosaic of savanna, forest, and wetland habitats. Even a relaxed day can yield more than 100 bird species and countless mammals. Capybaras are everywhere, while rarities like Brazilian Tapir, Maned Wolf, Giant Anteater, Giant Otter, and of course, the elusive Jaguar, are among the incredible highlights we'll seek. On the birding side, treasures include the elegant Greater Rhea, vibrant Hyacinth Macaw, striking Toco Toucan, long-legged Red-legged Seriema, and the dazzling Helmeted Manakin.



Toco Toucan

Reptiles and amphibians are equally remarkable — thousands of Yacaré caiman line the waterways, and with luck, we may even glimpse the elusive Green Anaconda, the world's largest snake.

Accommodations are in traditional working cattle ranches, each with its own distinctive wildlife community. Between excursions, lazy afternoons invite photographers to linger in the shade of ranch trees, where Hyacinth Macaws and other species can often be observed up close — the perfect chance to create once-in-a-lifetime images.

Day 1: Arrival in São Paulo

Arrive today at Guarulhos International Airport (GRU) in São Paulo. No activities are planned, giving you time to rest after your travels. A transfer to our nearby hotel is included (approx. 20 minutes). Optional early check-in can be arranged for those arriving before noon (extra charges apply).

This evening, we gather for a welcome dinner, meet your guides and fellow travelers, and enjoy an introduction to the adventure ahead. Don't miss trying Brazil's national cocktail, the caipirinha — sugarcane liquor, lime, and sugar.

Accommodation: Hotel Hampton by Hilton(D)

Day 2: Flight to Campo Grande – Southern Pantanal

We take an early flight to Campo Grande, then drive through the Pantanal grasslands toward Aguapé Lodge (approx. 4 hours), stopping for wildlife along the way. After lunch and check-in, we explore the grounds, already alive with birdlife.

Possible sightings include Hyacinth Macaw, Toco Toucan, Blue-fronted Parrot, Nanday Parakeet, Lineated and White Woodpeckers, Greater Thornbird, Crested Oropendola, Plush-crested Jay, and more.

Dinner and an optional checklist session close the evening.

Accommodation: Aguapé Lodge (B, L, D)



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Day 3: Safari Drives from Aguapé Lodge

With over 300 bird species recorded, Aguapé is superb for photography and wildlife viewing. Morning and afternoon safari drives bring chances for Southern Screamer, Blaze-winged Parakeet, Gilded Hummingbird, Pale-crested Woodpecker, Red-billed Scythebill, Helmeted Manakin, Scarlet-headed Blackbird, and more.

The lodge's location also makes this one of the best spots in the region for Giant Anteater. Other mammals may include Marsh Deer, South American Coati, Capybara, Crab-eating Fox, River Otter, and Southern Tamandua. Night drives offer opportunities for Great Potoo, Pauraque, Scissor-tailed Nightjar, Striped Owl, and other nocturnal species.

Accommodation: Aguapé Lodge. (B, L, D)



Giant Anteater

Day 4: Birding & River Excursion – Return to Campo Grande

After breakfast, we enjoy a final bird walk, with excellent chances for Great Rufous Woodcreeper, Blaze-winged Parakeet, Chestnut-eared Aracari, and Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl.

A motorboat trip on the Aquidauana River provides chances for Giant Otter, as well as Black-collared Hawk, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Blue-throated Piping Guan, and multiple species of kingfisher. After lunch, we return to Campo Grande for the night, stopping en route at a nesting site for macaws and herons.

Accommodation: Mohave Hotel. (B, L, D)



Chestnut-eared Aracari



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Day 5: Campo Grande to Cuiabá – Northern Pantanal

A morning flight brings us to Cuiabá, gateway to the northern Pantanal. We drive south to Poconé, stopping for a traditional churrasco lunch. From here, we travel the legendary Transpantaneira Road, probably rivalled only by Africa's Serengeti for wildlife viewing.

Our destination is Pousada Piuval, a family-run ranch lodge set on 7,000 hectares. After check-in, there's time for a short walk or a swim in the pool before dinner.

Accommodation: Pousada Piuval. (B, L, D)



Day 6: Birding & Wildlife on the Transpantaneira

Today we explore the Transpantaneira and surrounding wetlands, where wildlife is abundant. Expect Marsh Deer, Crab-eating Fox, Greater Rhea, Bare-faced Curassow, Chestnut-bellied Guan, and a wide variety of waders, herons, and ibises.

Bridge crossings offer prime spots for viewing kingfishers, jacanas, Cocoi Heron, Green Ibis, and many others.

Accommodation: Pousada Piuval. (B, L, D)



Crab-eating Fox



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Day 7: Drive to Porto Jofre – Jaguar Boat Excursion

After morning birding at Piuval, we continue south along the Transpantaneira, through palm woodlands, flooded grasslands, and marshes teeming with wildlife.

By afternoon, we arrive at Porto Jofre, where we transfer to our floating houseboat — our base for two days of Jaguar photography. With air-conditioned cabins and private baths, this “floating hotel” keeps us close to the action. After dinner, enjoy a briefing and (weather permitting) breathtaking stargazing under the Southern Cross.

Accommodation: Houseboat Hotel. (B, L, D)



Day 8: Jaguar & River Wildlife

Today is dedicated to searching for Jaguars, which thrive along the Cuiabá River. Using speedboats, we explore river channels where sightings are frequent. Jaguars often rest on the banks or swim across the waterways, offering outstanding photographic opportunities.

Other highlights may include Giant Otter, Black Skimmer, Pied Plover, Southern Screamer, and Pygmy Kingfisher in the back channels. After an exhilarating day, we return to the houseboat for dinner — and perhaps a celebratory caipirinha.

Accommodation: Houseboat Hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Wildlife along the Pixaim River

We retrace our route north, exploring the Transpantaneira in greater detail. Look for Black-and-Gold Howler Monkeys, Chestnut-eared Aracari, Snail Kite, Great Antshrike, Cream-colored Woodpecker, and more.

By afternoon, we reach Mato Grosso Hotel on the banks of the Rio Pixaim. Feeders attract colorful species like Orange-backed Troupial, Silver-beaked and Palm Tanagers, Red-crested Cardinal, and others.

Accommodation: Mato Grosso Hotel, Pixaim River. (B, L, D)



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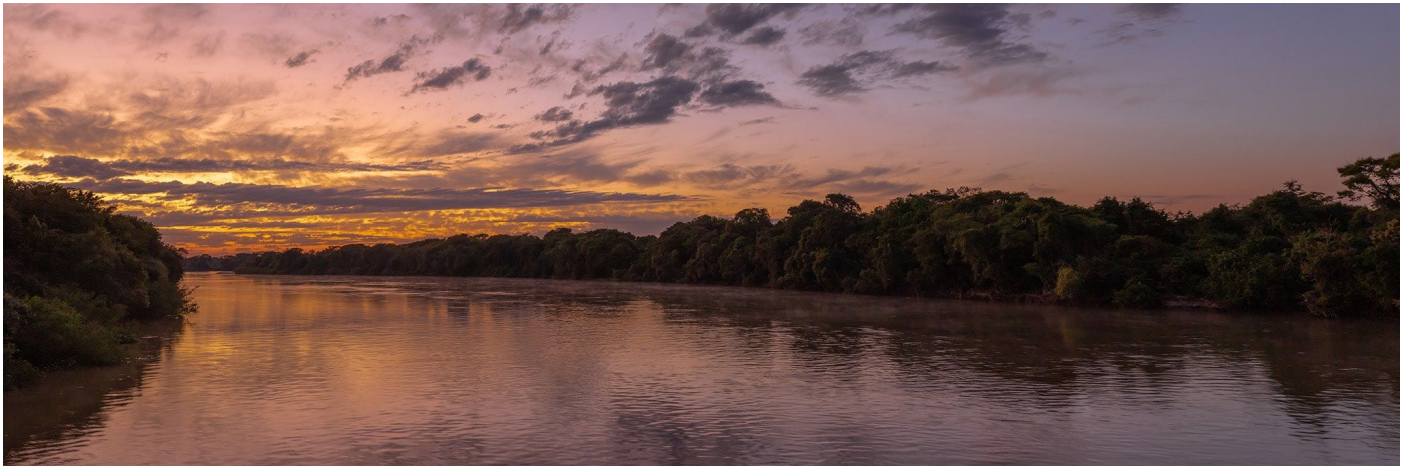
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Day 10: Exploring the Pixaim River

This morning we set out by boat to look for secretive species like Agami Heron and Zig-zag Heron, along with Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, Black-capped Donacobius, Band-tailed Antbird, and Helmeted Manakin.

The Pixaim is also excellent for Giant Otter and, with luck, Brazilian Tapir. After dinner, we sample authentic Pantanal cuisine, including local beef and the famous piranha.

Accommodation: Mato Grosso Hotel, Pixaim River. (B, L, D)



Day 11: Return to Cuiabá – Depart Brazil

After breakfast, we drive back to Cuiabá, arriving in time for afternoon flights. Plan departures after 4:00 PM, or extend with an overnight in Cuiabá or São Paulo – please make contact for more details of the extension. (B)

Cost: \$5200 per person (approx. £4000)

Interested in booking this tour?

Please reach out to us at info@victor-soares.com. While we do not directly lead this tour, we will be your dedicated point of contact for anything you need — from advice on photography equipment to assistance with flights, visas, and travel arrangements.



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Important Notes and Information:

Brazil's Pantanal - Jaguars & More - Highlights

This itinerary has been designed to guarantee the best wildlife-viewing opportunities at several of the most gorgeous reserves and landscapes in Pantanal, Brazil.

- Try for South America's "Big Five" Brazilian Tapir, Maned Wolf, Giant Anteater, Giant Otter, and Jaguar.
- Witness the "Big Five" of birds: Red Legged Seriema, Greater Rhea, Hyacinth Macaw, Toco Toucan, and Helmeted Manakin. Add Southern Screamer, Sunbittern, Scarlet-headed Blackbird, five species of kingfisher, and so many more!
- Explore both sides of the Transpantaneira wilderness -by boat and road on safari- like excursions.

Departs: All year round.

Arrival Airport is Guarulhos International (GRU), Departure Airport is Marechal Rondon International Airport (CGB) in Cuiaba.

Grading: Medium. Day walks only. To enjoy the trip to the full you should enjoy spending time in the fresh air on foot and boat rides.

Weather: The Pantanal is a tropical wet and dry region with an average annual temperature of 21,5 °C (70.7 °F). Daily high temperatures average at 30 °C to 32 °C (86 °F to 90 °F) and the weather therefore remains hot throughout the day. During the dry season (May to September), however, it can occasionally get a little cooler. The rainy season from October to April has hot temperatures year-round. Due to the tropical climate in the North Pantanal, there are hot temperatures year-round and the weather can seem very humid.

Clothing: Proper hiking gear, a rain jacket, comfortable shoes, a backpack with essential things such as warm clothes and waterproof gear.

What's included:

- Expert guidance and transport service
- Airport transfers and visits described in the itinerary
- Accommodation (in a standard room) and meals, as described in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all natural reserves described in the itinerary
- Domestic flights:
 - From São Paulo to Campo Grande
 - From Campo Grande to Cuiabá
- Boat excursions

Not included:

- Soft and alcoholic beverages
- Tips
- Wi-Fi (due to the remote location of some of the places we will visit, internet connection may be intermittent and low-bandwidth)
- Personal expenses (extra nights, late checkout, laundry, gifts, etc.)
- Accommodation and meals not described in the program
- Flights to/from Sao Paulo; flights from Cuiabá to Sao Paulo or any other destination.



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Conditions:

*Please note that the itinerary offers our planned program of excursions. However, adverse weather and other local considerations can necessitate some re-ordering of the program during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximize the best use of the time and weather conditions available.

*Please be aware that this is a sample itinerary. We can customize the package based on your request and send you a quote. This program and its accommodation options are subject to availability.

*All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.

*Rates for domestic flights included in this program are subject to change until we have issued the tickets according to the requested travel date.

General notes:

*Baggage is handled in accordance with the airlines' regulations and tariffs. The current limits are usually 50.6 lbs (23 kg) for checked items, 17 lbs (8 kg) for hand luggage and 1 personal item (handbag, camera bag, laptop, etc.) Please keep in mind that airlines are strict with their baggage limitations.

*All baggage must be securely packed, and be properly, clearly labelled. Liquid, fragile, perishable and/or other items that are not packed as such will be transported at the guests' own risk.

*We recommend that you keep important travel documents (passport, visa), important medication and/or valuables on you at all times. These items are the full responsibility of the guest at all times.

*We are not liable for loss or damage to baggage and/or any other personal item during air travel. We are not liable for baggage stored in shore-side facilities.

*We are not liable for the loss of, or damage of, of any aforementioned personal items. We reserve the right to charge for the return of personal items left at the hotels.